Volume 2, Issue 3

April 27, 2004

# Kennel Quarterly

Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit





## Animal Services shelter in spring

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## **Adoption Numbers**

Adoptions seemed to rebound during the third quarter after falling short of expectations during the first two quarters. Of the 741 dogs impounded between January 1 and March 31, 204 (27.5%) were adopted. This matches the adoption rate for dogs during last year's third quarter when we adopted out 216 of 785 dogs impounded. However, with 44 fewer dogs impounded this year compared to last, the stable adoption rate represents a decline in absolute adoption numbers.

Cat adoption numbers demonstrated a positive change from last year that we can only hope will continue. During this third quarter, Animal Services adopted out 119 (22.5%) of the 528 cats impounded. Last year during the third quarter, Animal Services adopted out

109 (17.6%) of the 618 cats impounded. So not only did our adoption numbers increase slightly, but the number of cats impounded declined substantially (14.6%).

During the fourth quarter, Animal Services plans to increase promotion of the adoption program through outreach events, television appearances, and advertisements. Posters are being printed and will be distributed among libraries, recreation centers, and other heavily trafficked locations. We are developing a Pet-of-the-Week promotion with the City's Communication Department that should also help increase awareness about adoptions.



Promotional posters will be distributed to help increase adoptions.

## **Update on Spay/Neuter Project**

Construction began Monday April 19 and the majority of the renovation is scheduled to be completed within two weeks. The cabinets and counter tops should arrive in mid-May so that the project can be completed by May 30.

Once the rooms are completed, we will assemble new stainless steel banks of cages in the post-operation room. We still need to purchase additional cage banks for the preoperation room, the exam/clinic, and the technical room. Additionally, we need to purchase and stock the clinic with surgical materials and supplies. Hopefully those items can be

purchased and delivered by July 1, 2004.

We have identified five local veterinarians and a few veterinary technicians who are interested in providing vet services at the shelter. Each individual will provide services under a contractual agreement with the City. Contracts are being drafted and will be awaiting authorization once the 2004-2005 budget is approved.

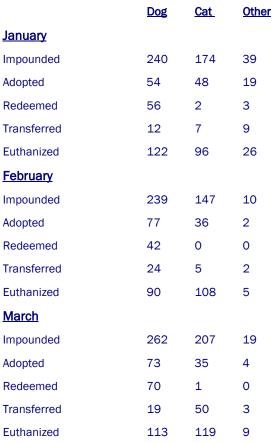


Ceiling mounted surgery light in newly renovated surgery room at shelter.

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### **Shelter Statistics**



Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 6,500 animals annually. We are committed to reuniting owners with missing pets and to placing animals in new homes, however it is impossible to find homes for all of them. Some animals are euthanized due to illness or injury. Others may display vicious or aggressive temperaments. Currently, the City of Rochester does not authorize the adoption of "pit bulls" from the shelter, so those that are not reclaimed are euthanized or transferred to Lollypop Farm. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are just far too many stray and unwanted animals in our community and we do not have space to house them all. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animals coming in declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions and decrease euthanasia.



"We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same."

## **Licensing Successful at Rabies Clinic**



The Monroe County Public Health Department works closely with municipalities to host rabies clinics for pets belonging to Monroe County residents. Clinics begin in the Spring and last into Fall. Dogs, cats and ferrets can be immunized at these clinics, but they must be at least three months old. Dogs should be leashed; cats and ferrets must be in a pet carrier. Shots are provided at no-charge. Clinic locations and times can be obtained by calling (585) 274-6864.

On March 17, 2004, for the first time, Animal Services was available at the rabies clinic at the Carter Community Center to

issue dog licenses to attendees. The Health Department had previously sent out press releases and announcements prior to our suggestion about licensing, so it was a bit of an afterthought. We scrambled to send out another press release in the hopes that we might be able to announce the licensing service at the clinic. After all, if people were going to a free rabies clinic, they would not necessarily be prepared to purchase a dog license for \$5.50 or \$15.50.

With no real basis for judging the attendance on a cold, damp day in March, we sent one Animal Control Officer, Denise Lybrand, to the clinic. In retrospect, we should have sent at least two people, but Lybrand did a phenomenal job.

During the event, Lybrand issued 37 licenses. Of those, 24 were original licenses and 13 were transfers or renewals. These numbers suggest that dog owners will be receptive to the convenience of one-stop service therefore future collaboration with the Health Department is warranted to promote licensing at rabies clinics throughout the City.

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### From the Director's Chair

The third quarter really seemed to zip by. Despite persistent cool temperatures, adoptions seemed to pick up and volunteer participation increased. Although there were few noteworthy events this quarter, we were involved in some new projects.

First of all, the shelter renovations were still on the horizon and discussions and preparation were increasing. Construction was postponed to mid-April to allow for the arrival of some materials.

As discussed below, we received the DNA results from the bulldog that had been impounded in January. Once again the testing confirmed the identity of a missing dog and charges were filed against a suspect.

Also this quarter, Animal Ser-

vices attended a free rabies clinic offered by the Monroe County Department of Health. For the first time, we had a representative from our office on hand to issue dog licenses to attendees. Although the endeavor was a last-minute suggestion, 37 licenses were issued and we believe that with more publicity future results will be even greater.

We also increased dog license enforcement this quarter. With the assistance of the City Clerk's Office, our Animal Control Officers began conducting license checks for dog owners delinquent on their renewals.

Arthur St. Hilaire was hired as an Animal Care Technician in late March. Art was a volunteer before joining our staff and he has jumped right in and demonstrated his value to the team.

The full staff and increased volunteers will be essential to keeping things running smoothly during the busy months to come.

As always I welcome your comments regarding our programs, services, and procedures and any thoughts about this or any past or future issues.

Chris Fitzgerald



## Stolen Dog's DNA a Match

You may recall from our previous issue that back in January Animal Services had impounded another English bulldog that appeared to be one of the puppies stolen from a breeder in Seneca County last May. Although the dog was returned to the breeder based on the physical appearance matching a photograph of the missing dog, blood was drawn prior to its release for use in the criminal investigation.

We sent the bulldog's blood to Therion International in Saratoga Springs, New York. The results came back in March confirming that the bulldog in question was undoubtedly one of the stolen puppies.

The lab compared 81 genetic markers in the pup's DNA profiles with those of the sire and dam owned by the breeder. All 81 markers observed in the pup were also present in the DNA profiles of either or both the sire

and the dam. This means that the pup could not be excluded from their offspring.

Furthermore, the percentage of shared markers between the pup and the adults was 83% for the sire and 88% for the dam. Parent-offspring levels of shared markers tend to be greater than 70%. These results substantiated that the pup is a first order relative of both the sire and the dam.

A suspect has been arrested and charged with possession of stolen property.



## **Heightened Enforcement**

In March, Animal Control Officers began using a list of delinquent dog licenses supplied by the City Clerk's Office to conduct license checks. New York State Agriculture and Markets sends a list of expired dog licenses to the City Clerk each month. The Clerk's Office then begins to follow up with the delinquent parties.

The Clerk's Office mails out letters notifying dog owners of their delinquent renewals and requesting a response. The dog owners may no longer have the dog or they may have relocated to another town or state. Others may have needed the extra reminder to motivate them to renew the licenses. The Clerk's Office uses the responses to help update the list of delinquent renewals. Once they have processed all of the late renewals and response information, the Clerk's Office sends Animal Services the updated list of expired licenses. Using that list, Animal Control Officers visit addresses where dogs were previously licensed and issue Notices of Violation whenever current license documentation is not provided.

In February, ACOs issued 62 tickets for unlicensed dogs. In March, ACOs issued 196 tickets for the same violation. We anticipate that this increased enforcement of dog licensing will help increase compliance with the State's dog license requirements.





## Rochester Police Department **Animal Services Unit**

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Get personal. Adopt a pet.

Animal Services is a municipal animal care and control unit within the Rochester Police Department that is committed to improving quality of life and safety for city residents, the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and the reduction of animal overpopulation to reduce animal suffering and euthanasia. Animal Services enforces all New York State and City of Rochester ordinances pertaining to animal control. We operate an animal shelter for stray, injured, menacing, and disowned animals. The shelter serves as a resource for locating lost pets and as an adoption center. We strive to provide the best possible care for all animals in our charge.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

#### WWW.ROCHESTERANIMALSERVICES.COM

#### **Volunteer Corner**

Our number of active volunteers continued to increase during the third quarter when Orlando and Jessica began conducting two orientations per month. The timing could not be better, as the warm months mean more animals impounded and increased reliance on volunteers for assistance at the shelter. Additionally, spring and summer are Animal Services' busiest seasons for outreach events. We are already scheduled to set up information tables and bring animals to promote adoptions at four Rhinos soccer games.

As usual, we will also have information tents at the Corn Hill Arts Festival, the Park Avenue Festival, and the Puerto

Rican Festival. We also plan to attend the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Picnic. At each event we depend on volunteers to answer questions, distribute brochures, and promote our adoption program and other services. These are great opportunities to spread awareness and boost adoptions. Signup sheets are posted in the shelter lobby. Please sign up now!



### **New Faces**

Arthur St. Hilaire was born in Rochester, New York. He earned a degree in Business Administration from MCC. Art spent some time in Texas working on a ranch with wild mustangs, American bison, and longhorn cattle. Art plays piano and has performed in more than 30 different countries and appears at several of our local hotels. His two main loves in life are music and animals. He is happy to be involved with both of those passions on a regular basis.

